

## REMARKS

The Office Action is discussed in detail below. Paragraph numbers refer to the Paragraph numbers of the Office Action.

### Paragraph 2 of Office Action

Claims 1,4,7,10,13, and 17 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ikoma et al. (U.S. Pat. 5,077,149) in view of Bougauchi et al (Abstract, Japanese Patent 02244555) .

Applicant's claim 1 recites:

1. *An active composition of an electrode of an alkaline electrochemical cell, comprising:*

*a nickel hydroxide material; and*

*a binder comprising a pectin or a molasses.*

Ikoma teaches an alkaline electrochemical cell comprising a **positive electrode** having an active material including nickel hydroxide (col 4, line 52-60).

Bougauchi (Abstract, Japanese Patent 02244555) teaches that pectin may be used as a binder for a zinc electrode (including Zn oxide power and Zn powder).

A zinc electrode is used as the **negative electrode** (i.e., the anode during discharge) of an alkaline electrochemical cell. Attached is page 29.1 from Handbook of Batteries, 1995, edited by David Linden. Section 29.2

shows that the zinc electrode is used as the negative electrode of the zinc/nickel oxide battery system.

Also enclosed are pages 38.1-38.7 of the same Handbook of Batteries showing, on page 38.4 that the metal electrode (which may be a zinc electrode) is used as the negative electrode of the battery.

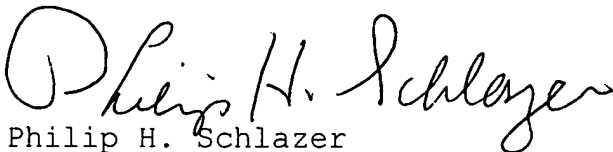
Also enclosed are Tables 7.2, 16.1, and 23.3 of same Handbook of Batteries, showing that in all cases, the zinc electrode is used as the negative electrode (indicated as anode) for the battery.

Hence, Bougauchi fails to teach or suggest that pectin may be used as a binder for a positive electrode of an alkaline electrochemical cell. In particular, Bougauchi fails to teach or suggest that pectin may be used as a binder with nickel hydroxide (a positive electrode material). Hence, combination of Ikoma (directed to a nickel hydroxide positive electrode) Bougauchi (directed to a zinc electrode - useful as a negative electrode) is not proper. Likewise the rejection of claims 1,4,7,10,13,15 and 17 as being unpatentable over Ikoma in view of Bougauchi is not proper and applicant respectfully requests it be removed.

# SUMMARY

In view of the above remarks, claims 1, 4-7,10-13,15, and 17 and 18 are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration, withdrawal of the outstanding rejection, and notification of allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions or suggestions regarding the prosecution of this application, he is asked to contact applicant's representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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